

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 IO-12 RSR-01 /133 W
----- 123251

R 052150 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5286

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USUN NEW YORK 535

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 2275

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MX, CA

SUBJ: PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S VISIT TO CANADA

REF: OTTAWA 0806

1. EMBASSY FOUND REFTEL A MOST USEFUL CLARIFICATION OF LEA'S ACTIVITIES IN CANADA. ALTHOUGH MEXICAN PRESS HAS DEVOTED OVERWHELMING COVERAGE TO LEA'S VISIT, IT HAS BEEN ENTIRELY ADULATORY AND UNCRITICAL, EMPHASIZING SUPPOSED EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS OF ALL ECHEVERRIA'S PROPOSALS, SPEECHES, AND CONVERSATIONS. FOR INSTANCE, MEXICAN PRESS STATED THAT GOC HAD GIVEN ITS UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT TO LEA'S CHARTER OF THE ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES, WHEREAS THE REFTEL MAKES CLEAR THAT GOC SUPPORT IS QUITE CONDITIONAL. LIKEWISE, THE PRESS HERE IMPLIED THAT GOC MIGHT DECIDE AFTER FURTHER STUDY TO SUPPORT LEA'S PROPOSAL TO GIVE SEAT ON UNSC TO A THIRD WORLD NATION; WHILE REFTEL EMPHASIZES FLATLY NEGATIVE CHARACTER OF GOC RESPONSE. THIS EMBASSY WOULD FIND SIMILAR SUMMARIES OF EACH PHASE OF LEA'S TRIP EXTREMELY USEFUL.

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2. WITH REGARD TO LOS ISSUE, EMBASSY AGREES THAT STATEMENT IN JOINT MEXICAN- CANADIAN COMMUNIQUE DOES NOT GO BEYOND DECLARATION OF SANTO DOMINGO BUT THINKS THAT IT DOES EXCEED PREVIOUS POSITION OF GOM, WHICH WAS NOT COMPLETELY CONSONANT WITH DECLARATION. ON DAY AFTER COMMUNIQUE, LOCAL NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED AN ABBREVIATED VERSION OF RESOLUTION CO- SPONSORED BY MEXICO AT UN SEABED COMMITTEE WHICH ECHOES STATEMENTS IN JOINT MEXICAN- CANADIAN COMMUNIQUE AND REINFORCES EMBASSY' S BELIEF THAT GOM HAS ADOPTED THE CONTINENTAL SHELF FORMULA, WHICH WOULD GRANT EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION OVER THE RESOURCES OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF TO LITORAL STATES.

3. LOCAL CANADIAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR, JUST RETURNED FROM OTTAWA, SAYS THAT ECHEVERRIA FOLLOWED NOW- FAMILIAR PATTERN OF GIVING LENGTHY MONOLOGUES, LEAVING NO TIME FOR RESPONSE. HIS AIRPORT ARRIVAL STATEMENT WAS CONSIDERABLY LONGER THAN NORMALLY REQUIRED BY PROTOCOL, AND HIS SPEECH TO PARLIAMENT WAS LONG ENOUGH TO DEMONSTRATE THAT CANADIAN MEMBERS ARE NO LESS SUSCEPTIBLE THAN THEIR US COUNTERPARTS TO FALLING ASLEEP DURING EXTENDED ORATORY IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE. CANADIANS ARRANGED FOR ONE- HOUR SESSION WITH BUSINESS ELITE ON SATURDAY MORNING, AND ECHEVERRIA PROCEEDED TO GIVE 50- MINUTE LECTURE, LEAVING ONLY 10 MINUTES FOR QUESTIONS. CANADIAN COUNSELOR SAID GOC HAD DIFFICULTY AROUSING INTEREST OF CANADIAN PUBLIC IN VISIT, AND TURN- OUT AT PUBLIC EVENTS WAS SPARSE. HE SAID DISMAL WEATHER WAS ALSO CONTRIBUTING FACTOR. MCBRIDE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MEXICO02275
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730434/aaaahrn.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 OTTAWA 0806
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01-Aug-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <23-Aug-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971201
Subject: PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA' S VISIT TO CANADA
TAGS: PFOR, CA, MX
To: ARA
BRUSSELS
HONG KONG
LONDON
MOSCOW
OTTAWA
PARIS

SECSTATE WASHDC
USUN NEW YORK

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005